

Children of Light (Part 5):

Be Kind, Compassionate, and Forgiving (4:32)

“Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

KIND

Luke 6:32-35

If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*. ³⁵ But love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *people*.

- **Kindness is Recognized Especially in the Unnatural, Unreciprocated, and Undeserving Moments**
- **It Can Be a Painful and Exhausting Slow-Growing Seed**

Gal 6:9-10

Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

COMPASSIONATE

Sympathy involves understanding from your own perspective.

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep

1 Cor. 12:26

If one part of *the body* suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it.

Empathy involves putting yourself in the other person's shoes and understanding WHY they may have these particular feelings. In becoming aware of the root cause (or just that there is a root cause) of why a person feels or acts in the way they do, you may better understand, and know how to pray and more compassionately respond.

Hebrews 13:3

Remember the prisoners, **as though in prison with them**, and those who are badly treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

- **Compassion Is an Intentional Mindset of Caring As Much or More About Others' Circumstances Than Your Own**

FORGIVING

All Three -- Kindness, Compassion, and Forgiveness – Require Faith in What God is Capable of Doing in a Another Person – Not in the Person’s Capability.

Luke 23:34 “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

- Perhaps Forgiveness, More than the Others, Requires Faith in What God Can or Will Do in Me.

Mark 10:28-31

Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and have followed You.”²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake,³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.